



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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NORTH CAROLINA MAN INDICTED AND ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY EXPORTING CONTROLLED TECHNOLOGY TO LIBYA

Washington, D.C. - A North Carolina man, Mohammed El-Gamal, has been indicted and arrested on federal charges of illegally exporting controlled technology to Libya, announced Ronald C. Machen Jr., U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, and Richard Shimon, Special Agent In Charge, Washington Office of Export Enforcement, U.S. Department of Commerce.

El-Gamal, 59, of Raleigh, North Carolina, was arrested yesterday and appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge James E. Gates in the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of North Carolina. El-Gamal was released on a number of conditions, including a one million dollar cash bond, electronic monitoring, and the surrendering of his passports. El-Gamal's first court appearance in the District of Columbia is scheduled for Thursday, May 27, 2010, for arraignment on the charges before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay. The case has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, who will subsequently handle the case.

The arrest was the result of a four-count indictment which was returned by a federal grand jury in the District of Columbia last week and unsealed today. The indictment charges the defendant with three counts of violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and one count of making a material false statement. If convicted of the charges, El-Gamal faces a likely sentencing guideline range of 63 to 78 months in prison.

According to the indictment, El-Gamal did business as Applied Technology Inc. ("ATI") located in Kenansville, North Carolina. El-Gamal held himself out to be ATI's President and CEO.

The indictment alleges that several times in 2006, the defendant exported or attempted to export various computer equipment, including items controlled for national security and anti-terrorism reasons, to Libya. In one instance, El-Gamal attempted to export integrated circuit boards containing strong encryption software by allegedly instructing an employee to smuggle them in his suitcase. According to the indictment, the defendant did not obtain any export licenses for any of the shipments to Libya.

In announcing the arrest and unsealed indictment, U.S. Attorney Machen and Special Agent In Charge Shimon praised Department of Commerce Special Agents Richard Jereski and Jody Bankins. They also commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Laura Ingersoll, Anthony Asuncion and Lynn Haaland, who investigated the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney George Varghese, who will prosecute the case.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a criminal violation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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